

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 001168

SIPDIS

PARIS FOR O'FRIEL  
LONDON FOR ETHAN GOLDRICH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2013

TAGS: [OVIP](#) [US](#) [IZ](#) [KU](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MINISTER OF STATE PLANS P-5 TOUR, REQUESTS  
WHITE HOUSE CALL

Classified By: Ambassador Richard H. Jones, reasons 1.5 b and d.

1. (C) Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Dr. Mohammed al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah contacted the Ambassador on March 30 to inform him that he is planning a whirlwind tour of P-5 capitals, most likely beginning with meetings on April 7 in Beijing and proceeding westward to Moscow, Paris, London and Washington, where he hoped to hold meetings the week of April 14. According to Dr. Mohammed, his primary purpose in the first three stops would be to complain about Iraqi missile attacks on Kuwait (using equipment and technology largely provided by his hosts in those capitals). In London and Washington, he would seek to convey a public message that Kuwait stands by its allies as they prosecute "a legitimate war for a just cause, the liberation of the Iraqi people."

2. (C) Dr. Mohammed added that he thought his trip would send different messages to different audiences. He hoped that it would reassure Kuwaitis that their government is actively working to protect them by confidently standing up for its rights and renewing its alliances. He thought that the trip would demonstrate to the Arab world that Kuwait has powerful friends; it is not alone or isolated. Finally, he wanted the tour to show the citizens of the UK and the US that their countries are in turn not isolated from the Arab world; Arabs who know Saddam's barbarity first-hand are with them in their efforts to liberate the long-suffering Iraqi people.

3. (C) Responding to the Ambassador's questions, Dr. Mohammed said that he had not yet discussed the trip with other P-5 ambassadors but would do so immediately. He added that he hoped for a full program of meetings in Washington, including at State, DOD and most importantly, the White House. He argued that a meeting with the President personally would send an important symbolic message to the people of the United States, Kuwait and the world that Kuwait was a full and willing partner in the coalition to free the Iraqi people from Saddam's "occupation". The Ambassador agreed to relay this request to Washington.

4. (C) COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION: A former Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Mohammed is Kuwait's de facto Foreign Minister. The scion of a long line of Kuwaiti Amirs and with a Harvard PhD, he is also a serious contender to become ruler himself one day. He was a consistent ally in our early efforts to win active Kuwaiti support for disarming Iraq and helped steer Kuwait toward a more assertive public posture against Saddam. At the recent OIC summit in Doha he personally stood up to Iraqi name-calling. He also helped Kuwait to overcome its traditional reticence and agree to be declared a member of the coalition. Kuwait is the only Arab state to take this step so far. We therefore strongly recommend that Washington arrange a full program of top-level meetings for Dr. Mohammed, including with President Bush. A call on the President, no matter how brief, would send a clear message that America understands and appreciates Kuwait's unique contribution to the coalition. It would also help to cement further our relationship with this dynamic member of the rising generation of the al-Sabah.

JONES